

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Kevin Dykema for his quiet yet firm hand in navigating Bay County, Michigan, on an unalterable course that will lead to further economic prosperity and perpetuation of the city's reputation as a welcome port-of-call for friends and visitors alike.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA SPEZIALE
RICHARDS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a longtime Syracuse journalist who passed away as a result of a sudden brain aneurysm while visiting family in Florida.

For over 20 years, Donna Speziale Richards covered breaking news in Syracuse and Onondaga County as both a radio and television news reporter. Born in Syracuse, she was a graduate of Solway High School and Onondaga Community College. She worked as a radio reporter for both WFBL-AM and WHEN-AM, where she also served as news director. She then went on to cover local stories for WTVH-TV5 as a television news reporter for eleven years.

1988 she won an Emmy award as a member of a team of reporters covering the bombing of Pam Am Flight 103. During her tenure as a journalist, Donna's work was recognized by the Associated Press Broadcasters Association, the state Broadcasters Association, and the Syracuse Press Club.

Most recently, Donna had left broadcasting to serve our community as a public relations specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration office in Syracuse. Through her work in that position, she was known as an informative and helpful source for local media and business people and a committed federal employee.

Donna leaves her husband, Donald; two stepsons, David and Paul Richards; her mother, Mary Speziale; and a brother, Skip Speziale. She was 43 years old.

Throughout her career, Donna was not one to seek special recognition or the spotlight. With this honor, it is my hope that her local involvement and balanced work receives the attention that it deserves. Donna leaves a reputation for fair and accurate reporting that should serve as a lasting example for all young, local journalists who follow in her footsteps. She will be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSE ANN VUICH

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former California state senator Rose Ann Vuich, a mentor and friend of mine who passed away in Dinuba, California on August 30, 2001.

Rose Ann's parents immigrated from Yugoslavia to California's Central Valley, where the

family ranches near the community of Cutler. After Rose Ann's father Obren passed away in 1940, her mother Stana and the family worked hard to keep the ranch prosperous. Their prosperity led them to eventually acquire three other ranches and allowed Rose Ann to open her own accounting firm in Dinuba.

Rose Ann was close to her family and deeply committed to her community. She served on the boards of the Tulare County Fair and Alta District Hospital and was active in political organizations.

Rose Ann was truly a barrier breaker. She paved the way for other women in public service by being elected as California's first female state senator in 1976. Before that, she was the first female president of the Dinuba Chamber of Commerce. She forced changes in the Senate, most notably when she rang a bell on her desk whenever male colleagues referred to the "gentlemen of the Senate."

During her sixteen years in the state senate, Rose Ann was a model public servant. She listened carefully to her constituents, represented them tirelessly, and set an example of integrity and character. She encouraged people to expect more of their elected officials, and her shadow over the Central Valley will be long.

She set a strong standard of ethical behavior that led her to raise tough questions about legislation before the Senate. She rose to become chairman of the Senate Banking and Commerce Committee, a position that allowed her to advocate on behalf of Valley agriculture. She also tirelessly shepherded construction of Highway 41 in Fresno, which she considered her proudest accomplishment.

On a personal level, I had the pleasure of serving as Rose Ann's Administrative Assistant immediately prior to my coming to Congress in 1990. I learned from Rose Ann the virtue and dedication of public service, and the importance of standing up for what is right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Rose Ann Vuich and celebrating her long and distinguished legacy of service to California's Central Valley.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE 50TH BIRTHDAY OF ELLEN
RATNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Ellen Ratner was born August 28, 1951 and will be celebrating her 50th year surrounded by admiring friends and family; and,

Whereas, Ellen has much to be proud of as she reflects on her past accomplishments and anticipates her future endeavors; and,

Whereas, Ellen has achieved respect and notoriety among Presidents, Members of Congress, and foreign leaders as she has successfully navigated and illuminated the ever changing tide of American politics; and,

Whereas, Ellen is also an accomplished writer, authoring "The Other Side of the Family: A Book for Recovery from Abuse, Incest,

and Neglect" as well as "101 Ways to Get Your Progressive Ideas on Talk Radio"; and,

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Ellen Ratner as she celebrates 50 years of achievement. I am honored to be a close friend with a woman whom I hold in the highest esteem.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD
ROWE'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER
IN GOVERNMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues from California, Mr. George Miller and Mr. Ose, I wish today to recognize Donald R. Rowe, who is retiring this month following a long and distinguished career in county government.

Mr. Rowe retires as the Director of the Solano County Health Services Department, a position he has held for the past twelve years. As Director, he had the overall administrative, budget and leadership responsibilities for 1,200 employees and an annual operating budget of \$187 million.

He was previously employed with the county from 1987 to 1989 as the Chief Executive Officer of Business and Personal Insurance Services.

Mr. Rowe came to Solano County from Fresno County where he worked as the Solid Waste Coordinator, as both a Senior and Principal Administrative Analyst in the County Administrator's Office, as the Associate Director of Health and as the Director of Health.

Mr. Rowe currently serves as Chair of the Solano Partnership Health Plan Board of Directors, which is one of five California health insurance organizations providing full service health maintenance coverage for the Medicaid population.

He is a member of the Executive and Legislative Committees of the County Health Executives Association of California, the State of California Health Information for Policy Project Committee and a founding member of the Solano Coalition for Better Health, a community wide collaborative health planning and community action committee.

Mr. Rowe holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Welfare from California State University, Fresno and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, because of Donald Rowe's many contributions to county government, and specifically to Solano County, it is proper for us to honor him today.